



News Release

Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Dry conditions returned to the crop growing areas of Colorado this year even though mountain snowpack measured above average for most of the winter and spring. Water restrictions for irrigation remain in effect for many prime growing areas in the state and directly influenced planting decisions once again this year. Actual harvested acreage will depend in large part on the amount of moisture received during the coming months. Colorado **corn** producers intend to harvest 1,170,000 acres for grain from the 1,300,000 acres planted in 2008. This is an increase of 10 percent from last year's harvested grain acreage and an 8 percent increase in planted acreage for all purposes. **Sorghum** plantings, at 230,000 acres, increased 5 percent from the previous year but acreage expected to be harvested for grain, at 180,000, increased 20 percent as growers expect to harvest a larger proportion of planted acres for grain. **Winter wheat** producers expect to harvest 2,000,000 acres from the revised 2,150,000 acres planted in the fall of 2007. This is 350,000 acres less than last year's harvested area. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 40,000 acres, doubled the area in that crop from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is expected to total 38,000 acres, up from 19,000 last year. **Oat** seedings are down 40% from last year to 45,000 acres but producers plan to harvest 10,000 acres for grain, unchanged from 2007. **Barley** planted acres, at 80,000, are 20,000 above last year's acreage. Expected harvested acres, at 78,000, are 26 percent above 2007. **Proso millet** seedings are expected to total 330,000 acres this year, up 22 percent from 2007. **All hay** area to be harvested is expected to increase 30,000 acres from a year ago to 1,580,000 acres. **Alfalfa hay** acreage is expected to increase 30,000 from last year to 830,000 acres. **All other hay** acreage harvested is expected to equal the last four years at 750,000 acres. **Sugarbeet** plantings increased 2,800 acres from last year to 34,800 acres. The expected harvested area, at 31,500 acres, is 2,300 acres above last year. Acres planted to **dry beans**, at 55,000, are up 15 percent from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 51,000. **All sunflower** planted area, at 170,000 acres, is 51,000 acres above last year. Oil type varieties totaled 145,000 acres, up 40,000 while non-oil type varieties are set at 25,000 acres, up 10,000. **Summer potatoes** showed a 47 percent increase in planted acres to 4,400 with the expected harvested acreage set at 4,000 acres.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The 2008 **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Despite the decrease, planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year, as high prices continue to provide incentive to plant corn. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from last year when harvested area was the highest since 1933. If realized, this would be the second highest since 1944, behind last year. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 97 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview compared with the 10-year average of 98 percent.

The 2008 **winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 46.6 million acres, down slightly from the previous estimate but up 4 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain is forecasted at 40.3 million acres, up slightly from the June forecast and up 12 percent from last year. Planted acreage declined from the previous year in the Hard Red Winter growing region. States with the most notable acreage decreases are Colorado, Kansas, and Texas. The Soft Red Winter growing States all showed an increase in planted acres from 2007. The largest increases were in Ohio, Tennessee, and Illinois. Compared with the previous report, harvested acreage decreases are forecast in several States, with Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado showing the largest declines. The area expected to be harvested for grain increased from the previous forecast in many of the Soft Red growing States. Winter wheat heading progress as of June 1 was behind the 5-year average in all States except Arizona, California, and North Carolina.

Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2008 is estimated at 14.2 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. Grain area is expected to total 13.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. Planted acreage is above last year's level in all States, however, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Colorado decreased from the March forecast. The largest increases from last year occurred in South Dakota and Washington, where planted area is up 250,000 and 170,000 acres, respectively.

Area planted to **sorghum** in 2008 is estimated at 7.27 million acres, down 6 percent from 2007. Area to be harvested for grain is forecast at 6.41 million acres, also down 6 percent from last year. Producers in Kansas expect to plant 2.85 million acres, up 2 percent from 2007, while Texas growers expect to plant 2.60 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Oats area planted is estimated at 3.47 million acres, showing a continued decline from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007. This 8 percent decrease from the previous year will bring the oat crop to another record low level. Oat acres planted declined or remained unchanged in 23 States and increased in 7 States. Considerable decreases in acreage occurred in both North Dakota and South Dakota, where growers showed a reduction of 100,000 and 110,000 acres, respectively. Other States showing significant decreases in acreage included Kansas, Minnesota and Colorado. The largest increase in acreage occurred in California, where an additional 90,000 acres of oats were sown.

Planted area for the 2008 **proso millet** crop is estimated at 605,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year's total of 570,000 acres. Increases in proso millet planted acreage in Colorado and Nebraska more than offset the decrease in South Dakota.

Producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of **all hay** in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout the Great Plains and the West. Increased acres are expected to be harvested along the East Coast. Expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 20.8 million acres, is down 4 percent from 2007. Acreage decreased in the Corn Belt, the Southeast, and most of the western United States, while acreage increases are expected in the Rocky Mountain States and portions of the Northeast.

The 2008 **soybean** planted area is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from 2007. Planted area increased from last year in all States, and is the third largest U.S. planted acreage on record. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.1 million acres, up 15 percent from 2007.

Area planted to **sunflower** in 2008 totals 2.16 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to increase 53,000 acres from last year to 2.06 million acres. Planted area of oil type varieties, at 1.85 million acres, is up 5 percent from 2007 and the non-oil varieties, estimated at 314,000 acres, are up 3 percent from last year.

Sugarbeet area planted totals 1.08 million acres, down 15 percent from 2007. The area for harvest is forecast at 1.03 million acres, down 18 percent from 2007. Planted acres decreased from 2007 in all States except Colorado. In Minnesota, the largest sugarbeet growing State, planting was behind the 5-year average pace in the early weeks of May. By May 7, planting was 96 percent complete in the four major producing States, compared with 99 percent last year and 97 percent for the 5-year average.

U.S. **dry bean** growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008, down slightly from the March 1 forecast and down 8 percent from 2007. Acres to be harvested in 2008 are estimated at 1.34 million acres, down 9 percent from last year. The decrease in planted acres can be attributed in part to strong prices for competing crops. Twelve of the 18 dry bean States decreased planted acreage from last year, two are unchanged, and four increased acres from 2007.

Growers in the **summer** producing States planted an estimated 48,000 acres of **potatoes** this year, down 11 percent from last year and 17 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 45,500 acres, 11 percent lower than 2007 and down 16 percent from 2006. Planted acreage in 7 of the 11 estimating States decreased from 2007. The reduction in acres is due in part to unfavorable planting conditions and uncertain water supplies.